

Application No. 09/543,622

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the application is noted with appreciation.

In the third paragraph of page 2 of the Office Action of October 17, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-25 and 27-29 as being unpatentable over Stone ("Status of Glass Reflector Technology for Heliostats and Concentrators") in view of Nicolas (U.S. Patent No. 4,320,164). The rejection is traversed.

As stated in currently amended claims 1, 12, and 25, the present invention comprises a mirror having a single, continuous, curved surface. This is possible because, as stated in the last Response filed by Applicant, the present invention uses a mandrel to create a curvature in a mirror and in the overall composite structure as pressure (e.g., vacuum in claim 15; expanding pressure in claim 25) is applied to the composite structure. Nicolas does not use the mandrel to create a curvature in a mirror. Nicolas teaches the use of a mandrel to position multiple mirrors (all of which appear in the Figures of Nicolas to not be curved) in such a way as to create an overall curved structure. Therefore, combining the use of the mandrel of Nicolas with the device of Stone would not lead to the present invention. Moreover, Nicolas, in using a mandrel to align multiple, planar mirrors, teaches away from the present invention. In effect, Nicolas does not teach a curvature in a mirror, but rather the use of planar mirrors positioned over a curved mandrel. Further, Nicolas does not teach the use of foam material to expand and put pressure on a composite structure to form a curvature. The use of the foam material according to the present invention is not taught by Nicolas alone or in combination with Stone as used in the present invention to form a curvature.

Therefore, claims 1, 12, and 25 are believed to be allowable. Claims 2-11 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore also believed to be allowable. Claims 13-24 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore also believed to be allowable. Claims 27-29 are dependent on claim 25 and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

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In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been traversed. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/19/05

By:

  
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Vidal A. Oaxaca, Reg. No. 44,267  
Direct line: (505) 998-1505

PEACOCK MYERS, P.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)  
P.O. Box 26927  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6927

Telephone: (505) 998-1500  
Facsimile: (505) 243-2542

**Customer No. 005179**

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